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HAILSHAM RURAL



DISTRICT COUNCIL



**ANNUAL REPORT**  
OF THE  
**MEDICAL OFFICER**  
**OF HEALTH**  
FOR THE YEAR  
**1963**

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L. A. COLLINS, M.B., B.CH., D.P.M., D.P.H.  
Medical Officer of Health



A N N U A L   R E P O R T  
O F   T H E  
M E D I C A L   O F F I C E R   O F   H E A L T H  
T O   T H E  
H A I L S H A M   R U R A L   D I S T R I C T   C O U N C I L

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To the Chairman and Members of the Hailsham Rural District Council,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report for the year, 1963.

As one year follows another there is little immediate change in the pattern of public health, but it is interesting to look back over a period of ten years. Ten years ago there were many more admissions to the isolation hospital, the number of notifications of whooping cough was vast in comparison with 1963 and what is very significant is that the number of new cases of tuberculosis reported was over four times the number of this year.

With regard to environmental factors affecting public health, housing is undoubtedly priority number one. Now that virtually the whole district is served with main water it is hoped that more attention may be given to sewerage schemes. There has been definite but slow progress during the last decade, and it is hoped that it will be possible to accelerate this progress during the next ten years.

I am indebted to all the members of the staff of the Public Health Department for their keenness and hard work throughout the year and this report can be regarded as a combined effort on the part of them all.

May I take this opportunity of thanking the Chairman and those Members of the Public Health Committee, who have taken an interest in the work of the Public Health Department during the year.

I have the honour to be, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

L. A. COLLINS

Medical Officer of Health.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF

Medical Officer of Health (part time),  
also School Medical Officer for East  
Sussex County Council

Dr. L. A. Collins, M.B.,  
B.Ch., D.P.M., D.P.H.,

Chief Public Health Inspector and  
Meat and Food Inspector

L. E. Scott, Cert S.I.B.  
Cert M.I.

Additional Public Health Inspectors  
and Meat and Food Inspectors

M. F. Warman, Cert S.I.B.  
Cert M.I.  
R. R. Creasey, Cert S.I.B.  
Cert M.I.  
F.A.P.H.I.  
A. J. Page Cert S.I.B.  
Cert M.I.

Student Public Health Inspector

P. Barton

Sanitary Assistant and Rodent Operator

J. F. Stanford

Rodent Operator

R. Cousins

Chief Clerk

R. S. Oak

Clerical Assistants

Mrs. M. Frost  
Mrs. P. Westgate

Offical Address

Public Health Department  
Cortlandt,  
Hailsham.

Tel. No. Hailsham 206

## INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The total number of notifications received during the year was 606 compared with 105 for the previous year. This increase is entirely due to the epidemic of measles, as there was a decrease in the total of all other notifications. The low incidence of infectious diseases in the district is also reflected in the low admission rate to the Isolation Hospital, only two cases being admitted in the year, one a case of measles and the other an observation case. Ten years ago, with a much smaller population, 26 cases from the district were admitted to the Isolation Hospital.

There were no cases of Poliomyelitis, Diphtheria, Typhoid or Paratyphoid in the district during the year.

### Measles

There were 556 cases of measles compared with 53 in the previous year. The main epidemic occurred in May, June and July and it had died down by the autumn.

### Whooping Cough

Again there were very few cases of whooping cough, 5 compared with 6 for the previous year. It certainly seems that immunisation is having a decisive effect. Ten years ago there were 197 cases in the course of the year. Of course, it is also possible that immunisation masks the severer aspects of the disease so that some mild cases are undiagnosed but obviously there has been a great decrease in the morbidity of the disease.

Of the 5 cases notified, 4 had been immunised and one case had not been immunised against whooping cough.

### Scarlet Fever

There were 5 notifications of scarlet fever compared with 12 in the previous year. As this disease is nowadays so mild it is likely that there are a number of unreported cases.

### Diphtheria

During the last nine years there has been no case of diphtheria in the district.

### Dysentery

The number of notified cases was swollen by the fact that one general practitioner persisted for a time in notifying all cases of non-specific diarrhoea as dysentery. Among 24 such cases no case of proven bacillary dysentery was discovered. There were three other cases of non-specific dysentery notified. Only one case of true Sonne dysentery was notified during the year. This was a boy aged 8 years from Hailsham. Specimens submitted to



the Public Health Laboratory from four other members of the family showed them to be free from infection. After three consecutive specimens submitted from the boy to the laboratory showed him to be free from infection, he was allowed to return to school. One convalescent carrier of Sonne Dysentery who moved into this district from an address outside the district was followed up until shown to be free from infection.

### Food Poisoning

There was only one case of food poisoning notified during the year. This was a man aged 46 years from Willingdon, who was shown to be infected with *Salmonella anatum*. This is a rather uncommon type of *Salmonella* infection. During the previous week he had eaten in various restaurants in London and elsewhere. The Medical Officers of Health of the district involved were informed.

### Epidemic Vomiting Disease

This newly recognised disease was again rather troublesome especially in the early winter. Among schools reporting epidemics of this disease were Alfriston, Chiddingly, Cross-in-Hand, Hailsham Infants, Herstmonceux, Maynards Green, Punnetts Town, Polegate Infants and Waldron Schools, but this list may not be complete.

### Smallpox

There were less cases than usual of contacts off ships or aircraft to be kept under surveillance. In consultation with a general practitioner I was asked to see a case of a Nigerian nurse to exclude the possibility of Smallpox. On clinical examination this was clearly a case of modified chickenpox.

### Tuberculosis

There were nine new cases of respiratory tuberculosis and one of non-respiratory tuberculosis, which is exactly the same as last year.

There were only three deaths attributed to respiratory tuberculosis and no deaths were due to non-respiratory, which again is exactly the same as last year.

### Mass X-ray

The following figures have been supplied by the Director of the East Sussex Mass Radiography Unit of Mass X-ray surveys carried out at Hailsham, (General Public) and Messrs. Burfields and Green Brothers, Hailsham during September.

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Total number X-rayed	488	493	981

#### Abnormal Films

Tuberculosis requiring occasional clinical supervision	1	1	2
Sarcoidosis	2	-	2
Cardio-vascular lesions (acquired)	5	5	10
Malignant disease (Bronchial Carcinoma)	1	-	1

#### SMALLPOX VACCINATION

1961	Vaccinations	387	Re-vaccinations	162	Total	549
1962	Vaccinations	902	Re-vaccinations	2,196	Total	3,098
1963	Vaccinations	215	Re-vaccinations	204	Total	419

There was obviously an increase of vaccinations in 1962 on account of the epidemics in other parts of the country.

There was a further reduction in 1963 as it was the policy of the Ministry to postpone infant vaccinations until the second year of the child's life.

#### DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION

The administration of the diphtheria immunisation scheme is centralised with the County Council but I personally conduct all diphtheria immunisation clinics in the district. During the year regular clinics were held at Heathfield, Hailsham and Polegate and occasional clinics at Alfriston, Arlington, Broad Oak, Cross-in-Hand, East Hoathly, Herstmonceux, Hellingly, Horam, Laughton, Maynards Green, Ninfield, Pevensey, Punnetts Town, Selveston, Waldron and Willingdon.

A total of 65 complete courses and 476 booster doses were given at these clinics.

The Ministry of Health has provided the following figures for the immunisation state of children in East Sussex compared with the whole of England and Wales.

The percentages immunised at 31.12.63 in East Sussex were as follows:-

	Children born in 1962		
	<u>Diphtheria</u>	<u>Whooping Cough</u>	<u>Polio</u>
Local Authority	79	78	63
England and Wales	65	64	53

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE (AMENDMENT) ACT, 1951

Section 47

Two cases were dealt with during the year under the above Act. One was an old lady aged 82, who had taken her discharge from hospital, but it was quite obvious that she was unable to look after herself in her own home in Polegate. She was removed to Furze House, Flimwell on 23rd February. In fact she went quite voluntarily and was unaware of the Order being obtained but it was safer to have the Powers of the Order in case she should have changed her mind at the last moment. The other case was an old man from Willingdon, who was removed to Furze House, Flimwell on 3rd April. Both cases settled down well although the man was a rather wandering type.

Many other cases of old persons living in unsatisfactory conditions were also investigated.

Section 50

It was not necessary to deal with any cases under this section of the National Assistance Act during the period under review.

CANCER OF THE LUNG

There were 36 deaths due to cancer of the lung, which is the same number as last year. However, ten years ago there were only 9 deaths from this cause. Throughout the country, there is a steady rise in the number of deaths from cancer of the lung from year to year. It is well known that there is a direct causal connection between cancer of the lung and cigarette smoking. Even a reduction in the number of cigarettes smoked reduces the risk of contracting the disease. If only it were possible to prevent the younger generation from indulging in this habit great improvement in future health would be obtained but from various surveys made of school children it seems that smoking now begins earlier than ever before. How can a little bit of health propaganda counteract the millions that are being spent every year by cigarette manufacturers on advertising?

VITAL STATISTICS

The corrected death rate was 11.3 compared with 11.9 for 1962 and 12.2 for the whole of England and Wales.

The corrected birth rate was 16.7 compared with 13.5 for 1962 and 18.2 for the whole of England and Wales.



It is regrettable that the infant mortality rate was as high as 25.9 compared with 14.8 for the previous year and 20.9 for the whole of England and Wales. However, with the small population involved, a slight increase in deaths produces a large order of increase in the mortality rate. Of the 15 infants dying in the year, ten deaths occurred during the first seven days, the causes being mainly prematurity and congenital defects.

### STATISTICS

Area in acres	94,668
Census population (1961)	42,420
Population estimated to middle year	44,920
Number of inhabited houses	16,356
Rateable value	£1,522,816
Sum represented by penny rate	£6,114.1s. 3d.
Total deaths per 1,000 population (not corrected)	18.2
Comparability factor	0.62
Total deaths per 1,000 population (corrected)	11.3
Senile mortality as percentage of total deaths (65 and over)	78.1
Maternal deaths (including abortion)	Nil
Maternal mortality rate per 1,000 live and stillbirths	Nil

<u>BIRTHS</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>
Legitimate	547	274	273
Illegitimate	33	18	15
	—	—	—
Total live births	580	292	288
	—	—	—
Live births per 1,000 population (not corrected)			12.9
Comparability factor			1.29
Live births per 1,000 population (corrected)			16.7
Illegitimate live births per cent of total births			5.7%

<u>STILLBIRTHS</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>
Legitimate	11	2	9
Illegitimate	2	1	1
	—	—	—
	13	3	10
	—	—	—
Stillbirths per 1,000 live and stillbirths			21.9
Total live and stillbirths			593

DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER 1 YEAR OF AGE

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>
Legitimate	13	6	7
Illegitimate	2	1	1
	—	—	—
	15	7	8
	—	—	—
Total infant deaths per 1,000 live births			25.9
Legitimate infant deaths per 1,000 legitimate live births			23.8
Illegitimate infant deaths per 1,000 illegitimate live births			60.6

DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER 4 WEEKS OF AGE

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>
Legitimate	8	4	4
Illegitimate	2	1	1
	—	—	—
	10	5	5
	—	—	—
Neo-natal mortality rate (deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 total live births)			17.2

DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER 1 WEEK OF AGE

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>
Legitimate	8	4	4
Illegitimate	2	1	1
	—	—	—
	10	5	5
	—	—	—
Early neo-natal mortality rate (deaths under 1 week per 1,000 total live births)			17.2
Perinatal mortality rate (stillbirths and deaths under 1 week combined per 1,000 total live births)			38.8

COMPARATIVE VITAL STATISTICS

	<u>Birth Rate</u>	<u>Infantile Mortality</u>	<u>Death Rate</u>
Hailsham Rural	16.7	25.9	11.3
England and Wales	18.2	20.9	12.2

CASES NOTIFIED OR ADMITTED TO HOSPITAL AND TOTAL DEATHS

Disease	Total Notified	Admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Scarlet Fever	5	-	-
Whooping Cough	5	-	-
Measles	556	1	-
Dysentery	28	-	-
Acute Pneumonia	8	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	2	-	-
Food Poisoning	1	-	-
Other and observation cases	1	1	-

NUMBER OF CASES REMOVED TO ISOLATION HOSPITAL EACH MONTH

	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
Observation Poliomyelitis	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Measles	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES IN AGE GROUPS

Notifiable Diseases	Under 1 yr.	1 yr.	2 yrs	3 yrs	4 yrs	5-9 yrs	10-14 yrs	15-24 yrs	25 yrs & over	TOTAL
Measles	9	38	55	69	65	280	21	6	13	556
Scarlet Fever	-	-	-	-	-	5	-	-	-	5
Whooping Cough	-	1	-	3	-	1	-	-	-	5
Dysentery	1	-	1	-	4	6	3	1	12	28
Acute Pneumonia	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	6	8
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	2
Food Poisoning	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Poliomyelitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1

TUBERCULOUS

	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-respiratory		Respiratory		Non-respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 5 years	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 - 14 years	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 - 24 years	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-
25 - 44 years	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
45 - 64 years	1	1	-	-	1	-	-	-
65 and over	2	-	-	-	1	1	-	-
	5	4	-	1	2	1	-	-



# CAUSES OF DEATH

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory .. .. .	2	1
2. Tuberculosis, other . .. . .	-	-
3. Syphilitic disease .. .. .	-	1
4. Diphtheria .. .. .	-	-
5. Whooping Cough .. .. .	-	-
6. Meningococcal infections .. .. .	-	-
7. Acute Poliomyelitis . .. . .	-	-
8. Measles . .. . .	-	-
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases ..	-	-
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach . .. .	9	7
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus .. ..	33	3
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast .. .. .	-	21
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus .. .. .	-	5
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms .	42	37
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia .. .. .	2	2
16. Diabetes .. .. .	1	5
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system .. ..	40	66
18. Coronary disease, angina .. .. .	77	51
19. Hypertension with heart disease . .. .	5	12
20. Other heart diseases .. .. .	43	85
21. Other circulatory diseases .. .. .	21	18
22. Influenza .. .. .	-	1
23. Pneumonia .. .. .	16	35
24. Bronchitis .. .. .	34	16
25. Other disease of respiratory system . ..	8	3
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum .. .. .	2	1
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea .. ..	2	1
28. Nephritis and nephrosis . .. . .	-	6
29. Hyperplasia of prostate . .. . .	5	-
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion . .. .	-	-
31. Congenital malformations .. .. .	7	3
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases ..	26	33
33. Motor vehicle accidents . .. . .	7	3
34. All other accidents . .. . .	8	10
35. Suicide . .. . .	2	1
36. Homicide and operations of war .. .. .	-	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	392	427
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## SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

### Water Supply

All the main water in this district is now supplied by one Statutory Water Undertaking, namely the Eastbourne Waterworks Company. During the year some 289 reports of analyses of the water were received from the Company showing a high standard of purity was maintained. A few complaints were again received concerning the taste of the water produced from the Sheepwash Bridge source and a meeting was held between members and officers of the Council and the General Manager and the Engineer of the Water Company. There was a full and frank discussion and a wide range of questions was answered by the Company representatives. As a result of this meeting the Council's representatives felt reassured about the company's control of this water supply and that the consumers now have all the opportunity they want of having any complaint investigated.

During the year the Council agreed to carry out two further extensions of the water main to serve isolated groups of houses and farms, one in the parish of Hailsham and one in the parish of Warbleton. In both cases it was necessary to ask the property owners to make capital contributions of up to £200. per house so as to reduce to reasonable proportions, the Council's costs for the extensions.

The extension in the parish of Hailsham was completed before the end of the year whilst the other extension in the parish of Warbleton was scheduled to be commenced early in 1964.

### Extension of Mains

The following lengths of water main were laid in the parishes of Alfriston, Eastdean, Hailsham, Hellingly, Heathfield, Horam, Pevensey, Polegate, Waldron, Westham and Willingdon.

In most cases the extensions were in connection with new building development.

139 yards of $\frac{3}{4}$ " main
1,097 yards of 1" main
287 yards of $1\frac{1}{4}$ " main
58 yards of $1\frac{1}{2}$ " main
384 yards of 2" main
2,571 yards of 3" main
3,255 yards of 4" main
166 yards of 5" main
12 yards of 6" main

# DISTRIBUTION OF SUPPLIES

The following table details the distribution of piped supplies and from which it will be seen that approximately 90.5% of the population is provided with main water.

Parish	Estimated Population Supplied by Public or Private main	Number of houses supplied		
		By Public Main	By Stand Pipe	By Private Main
Alciston	131	25	-	31
Alfriston	539	233	-	-
Arlington	311	130	-	-
Berwick	184	59	-	24
Chalvington	109	43	-	-
Chiddingly	522	218	-	-
Eastdean	1,079	454	-	-
East Hoathly	434	191	-	-
Folkington	52	22	-	-
Friston	297	117	-	-
Hailsham	6,538	2,668	-	-
Heathfield	3,223	1,168	-	-
Hellingly	3,036	851	-	-
Herstmonceux	1,578	556	-	-
Hooe	249	98	-	-
Horam	1,593	585	-	-
Jevington	121	10	37	-
Laughton	271	101	-	-
Litlington	117	46	-	-
Lullington	28	11	-	-
Ninfield	1,147	431	-	-
Pevsey	2,668	1,318	-	-
Polegate	5,570	2,264	-	-
Ripe	137	52	-	-
Selmeston	87	32	-	-
Waldron	2,463	900	-	-
Warbleton	1,051	432	-	-
Wartling	428	146	-	-
Westdean	59	22	10	-
Westham	1,899	700	-	-
Willingdon	4,566	1,842	-	-
Wilmington	214	77	-	-
	40,701	15,802	47	55



## Drainage and Sewerage

Works on the provision of new sewers and sewage purification plant in the parish of East Hoathly commenced in mid-year and should be completed sometime in 1964. These sewers are to replace old and defective sewers which discharged into cesspools with overflows conducted to open ditches.

Works also commenced on the provision of new sewers and sewage purification plant for Windmill Hill in the parishes of Herstmonceux and Wartling. Here again it is expected that the new sewers and plant will be in operation sometime in 1964. Many of the houses in this area are not provided with drainage or are connected to cesspools which give rise to nuisance and pollution of ditches.

Negotiations continued for the acquisition of sites for sewage disposal works for both Wilmington and Ninfield and it is hoped that purchase will be effected in 1964. In the meantime detailed surveys and design work were in progress for the parish of Wilmington.

The Council approved the principle of making lateral connections in all new sewerage schemes so as to facilitate the connection of all houses to new sewers when available.

Following further difficulties which were experienced due to the obstruction of private sewers on new private housing estates, consideration was given by the Council to the general policy of taking over such sewers. Quite obviously the existing system whereby developers convey the responsibility of maintenance of these sewers to the various owners of properties on the estate is unsatisfactory and it seems clear that such private sewers should be taken over and vested in the Local Authority.

## Removal of Night Soil

This service, operated by a contractor, continued in Alfriston during the year although on a somewhat diminished scale.

Following the provision of a new sewerage scheme for Alfriston in 1962 many of the earth closets and elsan closets have been converted into water closets.

There still remain, however, a few properties where it is necessary to collect Night Soil but it is hoped that the service will not be necessary after the end of 1964.

During the year the Council approved 14 applications for contributions towards the cost of converting earth closets and elsan closets into water closets in accordance with Section 47 of the Public Health Act, 1936. It was necessary to issue a Statutory Notice under this section in respect of the conversion of an Elsan Closet situated at a food shop. This notice was duly complied with.



## Public Cleansing

A weekly collection of refuse is made in the parishes of Alfriston, Eastdean, Friston, Hailsham, Hellingly, Herstmonceux, Jevington, Ninfield, Pevensey, Polegate, Westham and Willingdon whilst a fortnightly collection operates in the remainder of the district. It is estimated that 69% of the houses in the Rural District receive a weekly collection.

The question of the extension of the weekly collection of refuse to the parishes of East Hoathly, Heathfield, Horam and Waldron was again considered by the Council but deferred for a further period of 12 months.

During the year the last two remaining 10 cubic yard side loading vehicles were replaced so that the entire fleet consists of vehicles of the modern compression type and giving almost dust free loading. The fleet now consists of three Dennis Paxit Majors, two Shelvoke and Drewry Pakamatic Vehicles and two Dennis Paxits, the latter vehicles being fitted with bodies of 18 cubic yard capacity.

The labour force including the Foreman Mechanic and the driver of the Bray Mechanical Shovel consisted of 32 men.

The cost of refuse collection and disposal for the financial year ended 31st March, 1964 was £30,501. an equivalent of a rate in the £. of approximately 5d. It is estimated that the amount of refuse collected averaged 12.4 cwt. per 1,000 head of population per day.

With the continuing growth of the district and the increase in the bulk of the refuse to be collected it seems apparent that a further vehicle will soon be required to augment the existing fleet.

Many special collections of junk such as unwanted furniture, pianos, refrigerators, gas stoves, etc. were collected from householders free of charge whilst items such as car bodies, builders waste, old iron, etc. were collected from roadside verges, farm lands, etc. in an attempt to keep the countryside tidy but fresh dumping of unwanted articles still occurs but fortunately to a lesser degree. Facilities are also given to anyone wishing to take unwanted articles direct to the Council tip.

More litter bins have been provided throughout the area and it is hoped by this measure to overcome the litter problem. Such litter bins are regularly emptied each week whilst in the summer months it was necessary to empty many of these bins twice per week.

## Refuse Disposal

Refuse is disposed of by controlled tipping at three sites, namely (1) Mill Lane Tip, Hellingly, (2) Broad Farm Tip, Hellingly and (3) Ghyll Road, Heathfield. The latter tip being used solely for the refuse from four parishes, namely East Hoathly, Heathfield, Horam and Waldron.

The Bray Four Wheel Drive Mechanical Shovel employed on the tips was renewed during the year.

In the autumn some fly nuisance occurred despite the daily spraying of the surface of the tips with insecticide. Once again it appeared that a breed of flies resistant to D.D.T. had been produced, as following treatment with Malathion the fly nuisance was overcome.

The amount of refuse to be disposed of continues to increase and during the year it is estimated that 10,183 tons of refuse were dealt with. Botl Mill Lane Tip and Broad Farm Tip are rapidly filling and it will be necessary to acquire further tipping sites within the next year. The search for land is already being carried out but sites in the right location are either proving unsuitable or too small.

## Salvage

No separate collection is made of paper and salvage as it is considered quite impracticable to do so with the type of vehicles employed on refuse collection without providing trailers which would impede the speed of collection. The driver of the Bray Mechanical Shovel does however recover a limited amount at the tips as and when time permits.

The following quantities were disposed of for the amounts shown.

	Tons	Cwts	£	s	d
Scrap Metal	1	-	5	-	-
Non-ferrous metals		10 $\frac{3}{4}$	30	11	3
Rags	4	8	52	13	-
Paper	1	7	6	15	11
	7	5 $\frac{3}{4}$	£ 95	-	2

## Cesspool Emptying

This service continued on the same basis as in former years, i.e. one cesspool emptier operates in the parishes of Heathfield, Horam and Waldron where the cost is met by a special rate levied in those parishes, whilst two other vehicles empty cesspools in the remainder of the district on payment of charges of £1. for the first load of 750 gallons and 12/6d. for each subsequent load or part load taken at the same time of emptying.

Despite the increase in labour and fuel costs over the years, the charges are the same as those fixed when the scheme was introduced in 1949 and now the stage has been reached where a contribution is necessary from the General Rate Fund and this for the financial year ended 31st March, 1964 amounted to £1,314.

Every year the demands for this service increase and much overtime has been necessary in order to give a reasonably prompt service. The number of cesspools within the area increases, due mainly to modernisation of cottages in the rural areas. It is hoped that new sewerage schemes can be provided in some of the villages in the near future so that the demands upon the service can be less acute and the work can be carried out promptly and without necessity for overtime.

Tips for the disposal of cesspool contents become more and more difficult each year and on many occasions it has been necessary to travel relatively long distances to a satisfactory disposal site. Some of the cesspool contents have been disposed of in the sewers whilst the remainder has been disposed of on agricultural land and woodland remote from houses and streams.

During the year the Council replaced a 14 year old cesspool emptying vehicle by a new Dennis Cesspool Emptier and details of the work carried out by these vehicles are as follows:-

	<u>Cesspools Emptied</u>	<u>Loads Removed</u>
Heathfield, Horam and Waldron Schemes	1,370	2,040
District Scheme	2,574	5,041



## Housing

During the year a block of four double flats and 34 single flats were erected for the housing of the elderly at Polegate with accommodation for a resident caretaker. This accommodation has been much appreciated by the many elderly widows and spinsters who were formerly living on their own in rooms or under unsatisfactory circumstances. In addition, two houses were built in Polegate.

It was still possible to deal to a limited degree with a few unfit houses either when they became vacant or when the families were re-housed on the occurrence of casual vacancies in the existing Council houses. Unfortunately many unfit houses are urgently in need of action under the Slum Clearance procedure but the necessary action cannot be taken until more houses are built to house the tenants likely to be displaced.

The purchase of the older country cottages by persons of substance for use as weekend residences continues and although the otherwise unsatisfactory properties are modernised, they are lost to the local working people.

The number of applications for improvement grants showed a decline during the year for some unknown reason, despite the fact that considerable publicity has been given to the Improvement Grant Scheme. It would seem that many of the larger estates, and owners of large farms, have previously made full use of Grants, as only a few grants were made in respect of agricultural cottages during the year. Fifty five applications were received for Discretionary Grants and of this number 50 were approved, 2 refused and 3 were withdrawn. The average amount of grant was approximately £311. per dwelling. This reflects an increase in the cost over previous years as is to be expected with the ever rising costs in labour and materials. Of the 50 Discretionary Grants approved, 5 were in respect of agricultural service cottages, 14 in respect of rent controlled dwellings and 31 in respect of owner-occupied houses. Repayment with interest was made in respect of 3 grants made in former years. Forty four applications for Standard Grants were also approved during the year and these were mainly in respect of houses owner-occupied. Three applications for Certificates of Disrepair were received. There are, of course, many cottages let at very low rents which are in disrepair to some degree, but here it seems the owners have elected to forgo the rent increase in view of the relatively high cost of carrying out repairs.

In view of the fact that no houses have been built for general housing needs since 1959, the number of applications on the housing list has increased and many cases occur of overcrowding or of families with two or more children living in one or two rooms.

The intensive development of parts of the area by private enterprise has continued but the majority of the applicants for housing accommodation who fall in the lower income groups, could not even consider purchase. The Council did consider the need for further houses for families in the lower income group and agreed to build 500 houses in the next five years subject to approval by the Ministry. It is quite clear that until more Council houses are built for general housing needs, the overcrowding which does exist cannot be abated.



The Council continued to operate the Small Dwellings Acquisition Act and have made many loans to persons living and working in the district for the purchase of the older type of house which normally the Building Societies will not entertain.

#### PART 1 - APPLICATIONS FOR CERTIFICATES OF DISREPAIR

(1)	Number of applications for certificates ... ..	3
(2)	Number of decisions not to issue certificates ... ..	Nil
(3)	Number of decisions to issue certificates . ... ..	3
	(a) In respect of some but not all defects ... ..	1
	(b) In respect of all defects ... ..	2
(4)	Number of undertakings given by landlords under paragraph 5 of the First Schedule ... ..	2
(5)	Number of undertakings refused by the Local Authority under proviso to paragraph 5 of the First Schedule ... ..	Nil
(6)	Number of certificates issued ... ..	1

#### PART 11 - APPLICATIONS FOR CANCELLATION OF CERTIFICATES

(7)	Applications by landlords to Local Authority for cancellation of certificates ... ..	1
(8)	Objections by tenants to cancellation of certificates . ... ..	Nil
(9)	Decisions by Local Authority to cancel in spite of tenants objections ... ..	Nil
10)	Certificates cancelled by Local Authority ... ..	Nil

## HOUSING STATISTICS

Number of houses demolished during the year as a result of formal or informal procedure	10
Number of houses closed under Section 16 (4) and 17 (1) of the Housing Act, 1957	8
Number of families re-housed by local Authority from houses the subject of Demolition or Closing Orders	8
Number of houses made fit after formal action under the Public Health Acts	Nil
Number of houses made fit after formal action under Sections 9 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1957	2
Number of houses made fit under Section 24 of the Housing Act, 1957	4

### Noise Abatement Act, 1960

That more persons are finding noise from various sources to be annoying became obvious from the number of complaints received by the department. Objection being taken to, among others, the operation of circular saws for wood cutting, factory machinery, fans installed in deep litter or battery houses, bird scarers, bantams, geese, cockatiels and, of course, dogs. Every complaint is investigated but the proof or not of the existence of a nuisance can be extremely expensive in time.

Following complaints and observations covering a period of twelve months, including the employment of two officers for two complete days, the Council served a Statutory Notice on the owner of some boarding kennels to abate the nuisance created by the noise from some 40 dogs. Although the notice was not complied with the Council agreed to defer Court procedure as the owner had submitted a Town Planning application for the re-development of the site for houses. Other than this one instance, confirmed nuisances were dealt with by informal action and the co-operation of the offenders in re-siting, soundproofing or removing completely the cause of the noise.

The East Sussex County Council during the year adopted Byelaws for the control of noise from radio sets in houses and in public places.

## Caravan Sites

Generally the caravan sites within the area continue to be well maintained and equipped. The larger sites with holiday and residential caravans all comply with the Model Standards issued by the Ministry. The number of licenced sites at the end of the year was 168 and details of the numbers of caravans on the respective sites are as follows:-

Number of Sites	129	16	1	3	3	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	2	2	1	1
Caravans on Site	1	2	3	4	5	6	9	10	20	25	26	50	65	75	100	150	250	364

Undoubtedly the caravan has come to stay and the modern caravan can no longer be described as sub-standard. The individual caravan parked on farmland, although satisfactory for holiday purposes, is quite unsuitable for all the year occupation due to the absence of proper facilities.

The number of caravans both authorised and unauthorised increased during the year and much time is devoted to ensuring that unauthorised caravans on farms and holdings did not exceed their permitted stay of 28 days. Again this problem was accentuated due to a local person letting a number of caravans and siting them in the most unsuitable places without first obtaining planning permission and a licence. These particular caravanners travel from farm to farm during the winter months to avoid licencing and sanitary conditions, water supply and drainage are often most crude.

To overcome this problem the Council entered into a legal agreement with a site owner to provide a residential site in Hailsham for 50 caravans with the Council having the right to nominate all tenants of sites. Conditions were imposed controlling the rental of a site and giving security of tenure. It is hoped that the site will be available during the summer of 1964.

During the year it was necessary to take legal proceedings against one site owner for a contravention of the conditions of his site licence inasmuch as there were 24 occupied caravans on the site whereas only 12 were permissible under licence. He was duly fined £50. together with £5.5s.0d. costs.

Legal proceedings were also taken against three landowners for permitting the stationing of caravans on their land without first obtaining a site licence. In each case the owners were convicted and were fined varying amounts from £20. to £5.

In another case legal proceedings were commenced but the summons was subsequently withdrawn as the caravans had been removed from the land before the case was heard in Court.

During the winter months some problems arose from gypsies who encamped on roadside verges or common land but fortunately they were persuaded to continue their travels to another district. Once again they left behind them large amounts of rubbish and litter.



## Milk and Dairies

Although there are 56 retailers registered, the majority of the milk delivered to individual houses is supplied by roundsmen of the bigger combines.

Samples of untreated milk have continued to be sent each month to the Public Health Laboratory, Brighton and the results of these examinations are summarised below.

### Biological Examinations

### No. of Samples

Infected with B. abortus	1
Infected with B. melitensis	-
Infected with M. Tuberculosis	-
Satisfactory	27

Total 28

### Methylene Blue Test

	<u>Raw Milk</u>	<u>Pasteurised</u>	<u>Sterilised</u>
Satisfactory	22	6	1
Unsatisfactory	5	-	-
	—	—	—
Totals	27	6	1
	—	—	—

With regard to the one sample affected with B. abortus, this was followed up and twenty three quarter samples from six cows were taken from the milking herd and B. abortus was isolated in the milk of one cow. This cow was removed from the herd.



## Food Inspection

The Council re-licenced the six slaughterhouses in use for another year and the twelve months showed a further increase in the number of animals slaughtered. The slaughterhouse with the largest throughput has been compelled through the increase of business, to commence considerable modifications to the internal arrangement of the building. All six premises comply with the requirements of the Hygiene and Prevention of Cruelty Regulations. No slaughter house is licenced for the slaughter of horses and no premises are used as knackeryards.

Although Town Planning approval was given in September, 1962 to the erection of a very large slaughterhouse at New Barn Farm, Hooe, it was not until August, 1963 that the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food reached a decision and instructed the Council to refuse the application for a licence for the proposed slaughterhouse. Within a matter of days the owner of the property had submitted a further application for a licence for a slaughterhouse on the same site and the decision of the Minister is again awaited. It is known that a considerable element of support is forthcoming from farming interests.

Slaughtering is normally carried out on six days every week with occasional Sunday work at holiday time, however, killing took place on several Sundays in November to deal with a large number of sheep exported for the Belgian market. As killing at some of the slaughterhouses continues into the evening, a considerable amount of overtime was worked, and this was increased by the coming into force of the Meat Inspection Regulations, 1963 on the 1st October and the consequent requirement that every carcase shall be stamped with an official stamp. The Council decided to adopt the maximum charges authorised by the Regulations for the inspection of carcasses and for the three months of October, November and December, a sum of £250.1s.0d. was received.

The total number of animals slaughtered in 1963 showed an increase of 3,311 over 1962 and reached the figure of 16,802, made up of 8 bulls, 556 bullocks or steers, 505 cows, 1,093 heifers, 1,414 calves, 3,996 sheep and 9,230 pigs.

As a result of inspections by the department an estimated weight of 27,816 $\frac{3}{4}$  lbs of food was found to be unfit for human consumption and this figure included the carcasses of 3 bullocks, 21 cows, 14 calves, 21 sheep and 37 pigs together with 2,113 head of poultry.

It continues to be possible to arrange for unsound food to be disposed of by incineration, buried on refuse tips or forwarding to agreed processors for use other than human consumption.

It was gratifying to note that the hope expressed in last year's report that a "Code of Practice" for the use of quick frozen food retailers was published during the year. Unfortunately the contents of this publication do not appear to be as well known as one would wish but the attention of retailers was drawn to the Code.

As well as visits to the slaughterhouses, routine visits are made to other food premises which in the main are satisfactorily maintained, more frequent visits being made to those having a tendency to be slipshod. Regular visits are made to the cattle and produce markets as well as to the poultry packing stations, of the latter a new one commenced operation and another was modernised.

The number of grocers who now sell bread and cakes has increased, especially is this so where the local baker's shop in the village has been closed. There are no wholesale bakehouses in the district.

Although no prosecutions were taken during 1963 one case of a jar of "Home Made" marmalade sold in a local shop and containing filth was referred to the authority of the area in which it was made.

#### CONTRAVENTIONS OF FOOD HYGIENE REGULATIONS

Insanitary conditions of walls, etc.	3
Equipment in such a condition or so stored as to cause risk of contamination.	1
Food exposed to risk of contamination	2
Defective sanitary conveniences	1
Lack of hot water	1
Lack of facilities for hand washing	2

# SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS OF FOOD PREMISES

	Number in <u>District</u>	Total number of Inspections <u>Made</u>
Bakehouses ... ..	13	17
Butcher's Shops ... ..	28	153
Baker's Shops ... ..	18	20
Cafés, Snack Bars and Canteens ...	79	65
Fish Shops ... ..	12	55
Greengrocers ... ..	27	60
Grocers and General Stores ... ..	151	127
Hawkers ... ..	14	3
Public Houses and Guest Houses ...	113	27
Sweet Shops ... ..	40	17
Ice Cream Sellers (plus 58 catering establishments)	164	105

## MISCELLANEOUS UNSOUND FOOD CONDEMNED

<u>Foodstuff</u>	<u>Weight in lbs</u>
Meat/Poultry - home killed	28,890 $\frac{3}{4}$
Meat - Imported and/or processed	459
Fish	289
Fruit, etc.	4,637 $\frac{1}{2}$
Miscellaneous	114
	<hr/>
	34,390 $\frac{1}{4}$ lbs.
	<hr/>



Carcases and Offal Inspected and  
Condemned in Whole or Part

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep Lambs Kids	Pigs	Horses
Number killed	1,657	505	1,564	4,277	9,230	-
Number inspected	1,657	505	1,414	3,996	9,230	-
<u>All diseases, except Tuberculosis &amp; Cysticerci</u>						
Whole carcasses condemned	3	21	14	21	37	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned.	88	61	10	66	415	
Percentage of number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis or cysticerci.	5.5	16.2	1.7	2.2	4.9	-
<u>Tuberculosis only -</u>						
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned.	1	-	-	-	20	-
Percentage of number inspected affected with tuberculosis.	.06	-	-	-	0.2	-
<u>Cysticercosis -</u>						
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned.	.2	-	-	-	-	-
Carcasses submitted to treated by refrigeration.	-	-	-	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned.	-	-	-	-	-	-

## Rodent Control

Nothing exceptional has arisen during this year's work on Rodent Control. The exceptional wet period experienced during the last two months of the year did, however, have its effect and brought about a noticeable increase in the number of minor infestations of rats.

Major infestations have continued to show a decrease. Many of the minor infestations are brought about by the regular and indiscriminate feeding of birds and badly run compost heaps. The number of complaints from occupiers of new properties remains high. Marauding rats are attracted to building sites by food scraps from workmen's mess huts and entry into new houses is frequently traced to holes being left in the brickwork through which the normal services are taken, i.e. gas, water and electricity.

The continuing attention given to school canteens has proved its worth by reducing still further the amount of work carried out at these establishments.

Although it has again been impossible to carry out a 10% test baiting of all sewers, a considerable amount of work was involved in Alfriston when a new sewerage system came into being and which was linked up with the old system, no interceptors being used, thus providing a happy hunting ground for rats with the result that infestations became widespread and involved a considerable amount of work to gain control.

Numerous requests from occupiers of agricultural premises for advice on the use of Warfarin have been received. With the number of contracts undertaken by commercial pest control firms and the treatment by occupiers of farms, much improvement has resulted in the control of rats in this type of premises. No Statutory Notices under Section 4 of the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949 were served.

### Number of properties inspected (including re-inspections)

Non-agricultural	4,371
Agricultural	713

### Number of infestations found - Rats and Mice

Non-agricultural	(a) Major	6
	(b) Minor	674
Agricultural	(a) Major	Nil
	(b) Minor	20

### Number of treatments (including re-treatments)

Non-agricultural	718
Agricultural	3

# SUMMARY OF SANITARY INSPECTIONS

Housing Acts	364
Housing Act re-inspections	340
Complaints	190
Public Health Nuisances	238
Public Health re-inspections	240
Offensive accumulations	21
Keeping of Animals, Birds, etc.	58
Drains and sewers	405
Drains tested	10
Closet accommodation	58
Verminous premises dealt with	10
Infectious diseases	12
Rooms disinfected	12
Tents, Vans, Sheds, etc.	664
Pollution of Watercourses	109
Water Sources	142
Public Cleansing	1,109
Water Analyses -	
Biological : Satisfactory 5      Unsatisfactory : 11      Total 16	
Cesspool Emptying	120
Rats and Mice destruction	954
Swimming Pools	2
Schools	2
Markets	76
Milk and Dairies	67
Factories, Workshops, etc.	59
Smoke observations and visits	7
Slaughterhouses	1,390
Knackers Yards	-
Meatshops, Fish and Fruit Shops, etc.	255
Grocers and General Shops	127
Bakehouses	17
Bakers Shops	20
Catering Establishments	65
Ice Cream Sellers	40
Sweet Shops	17
Hawkers' premises and vehicles	3
Public houses and guest houses	27
Poultry Packing Stations	48
Housing applicants, etc.	595
Noise Abatement	21
Licensing Act	2
Flies, Wasps, Bees, Ants, etc.	167
Miscellaneous	268
 Total	 8,331



# APPENDIX

## ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH IN RESPECT OF THE YEAR 1963 FOR THE RURAL DISTRICT OF HAILSHAM IN THE COUNTY OF EAST SUSSEX

### Prescribed Particulars on the Administration of the Factories Act, 1937

#### PART 1 of the ACT

#### 1 - INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Number of		
		Inspections (3)	Written Notices (4)	Occupiers prosecuted (5)
1. Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	14	2	-	-
2. Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	203	57	2	-
3. Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises.	22	-	-	-
Total	239	59	2	-

2 - Cases in which defects were found

Particulars (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (6)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred To H.M. Inspector (4)	By H.M. Inspector (5)	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	2	2	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (a) Insufficient (S.7)	1	-	-	1	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	1	1	-	-	-
Total	4	3	-	1	-

PART VIII OF THE ACT

Outwork

(Section 133 & 134)

	Section 133			Section 134		
Nature of Work (1)	No. of outworkers in August list required by Section 110(1)(c) (2)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council (3)	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists (4)	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises (5)	Notices served (6)	Prosecutions (7)
Wearing Apparel (Making etc. cleaning & washing) Household linen.	14 5	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -